

**ROMAN AND BYZANTINE MEDALLIONS
IN THE DUMBARTON OAKS COLLECTION**

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A GROUP of medallions at Dumbarton Oaks in gold, silver, and bronze stretches from the third century to the sixth, while a remarkable silver piece of Phocas in the Whittemore Collection at the Fogg Art Museum in Cambridge continues the series into the seventh century. That such pieces were primarily intended as gifts to important people on special occasions is agreed to by everybody, and the great variation in weight of the bronzes makes it extremely unlikely that they represented any definite denomination (though in the case of Valentinian the possibility remains). The gold and silver, however, generally bear a recognizable relation to the standard coins in those metals, and may have done duty as currency if anyone could be so callous or so poverty-stricken as to spend them. Nevertheless, the material belongs rather to the history of art than to the history of currency, and whatever the political or economic implications, the chief value and the chief charm of the medallions is their spectacular appearance. Many of these specimens have already been published in learned works or in sales catalogues, and all will be included later in the projected Corpus of Roman Medallions by Professor Jocelyn M. C. Toynbee of Newnham College, Cambridge, but it was felt to be desirable that the group should be presented together as a significant part of the Dumbarton Oaks Collection. It is hardly large enough to justify a general discussion of medallions, and the reader is referred to the great collection in F. Gnechi's work *I Medaglioni Romani* (Milan, 1912) and Miss Toynbee's important treatise, *Roman Medallions* (*Numismatic Studies No. 5*, New York, 1944). The author has had the pleasure of discussing the text and illustrations with Miss Toynbee, whose useful comments are gratefully acknowledged.

GORDIAN III

1. Bronze, 57.27 grams, 38 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.11

FIGURE 1

IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FELIX AVG

Bust left, laureate, in cuirass, holding a spear over his right shoulder; on his left shoulder a shield on which is the device of the Emperor, mounted, riding left, spearing a fallen enemy, and followed by a soldier.

PAX AETERNA

The Emperor in military garb standing left and sacrificing over an altar; behind him, Victory crowning him; above and to the left a quadriga

facing in which is the Sun god raising his right hand; beneath the quadriga the river gods Tigris and Euphrates reclining, facing each other; to left, a standard, a standard beside the Sun god, a third between the Emperor and Victory.

Struck at Rome, 240–244.

Toynbee, *Roman Medallions*, pp. 45–48, discusses the problem of the mint and the authority and concludes that “until the middle of the third century true bronze medallions, money medallions and pseudo medallions were all alike the product of a single Roman mint under imperial control.”

The dated medallions show that, as on the coins, this form of the obverse legend belongs to the years 240–244. This is one of the numerous medallions struck for the Eastern campaign, as its types show. The standards signify the presence of the army. That to the left is a reasonable element in the design and one would think that it might have sufficed. The one beside the Sun god is not appropriate to him, while the third is crowded in between the emperor and Victory with no artistic justification. Is it fanciful to suppose that they are meant to express the immediate connection between the army and its commander, its divine protector, and its field of operation?

From the Prince of Waldeck Collection, *Münzhandlung Basel Catalogue*, III (March 5, 1935), no. 828. It was published by Edward Gans, “Notes on Some Roman Medallions,” *The Numismatist* (December 1947), pp. 848 f.¹

Cf. Gnechi, *I Medaglioni Romani*, II, p. 89, no. 24, pl. 104.7 (same dies), 8 (worn, but apparently the same obverse die, the reverse die is different). He cites seven examples of which five are of two metals, that is, the bronze is surrounded by a rim of another metal. The diameters are 30 mm. (inner disc only, the rim being lost), 35, 36, 38, 39 (2), 40. The weights are 34.7 grams (inner disc only, the rim being lost) 42.4, 48.0, 48.4, 50.5, 54.42, 68.17, a diversity which fully supports Miss Toynbee in rejecting the theory that there is any standard for these bronze medallions.

PROBUS

2. Bronze, 17.715 grams, 29 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17.

FIGURE 2

The edge of the piece has been flattened after striking to produce a raised rim on each side.

¹ When there is significant information as to the previous history of a particular piece, it is given after the description and commentary, and before the citation of comparative material.

IMP PROBV SPF AVG

Bust left, laureate, in cuirass, with lance and shield bearing the device of the Emperor riding left, preceded by Victory and followed by a soldier.

MO NETA AV G

The three Monetae each with scales and cornucopiae.

Struck at Rome, 277–281.

Under Probus some medallions bear the mint mark of Siscia, and others have been attributed to that mint on grounds of style, but most of the issues are doubtless from Rome (Toynbee, pp. 50 f.).

This form of the obverse inscription is found on dated denarii 277 to 281 (Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage*, V, 2, p. 43).

The Monetae are not used as a type on the coins of Probus but “the great bulk of the personifications depicted on third-century medallions consists of the silver, bronze, and billon series of Tres Monetae type, issued almost continuously from the time of Septimius Severus to that of Carinus and Numerianus” (Toynbee, p. 163). The anatomy of the bust is very awkward. Either it is supposed to be seen from the rear with the ridiculously small lance held in the concealed right hand, or, if the view is supposed to be frontal, the position of the lance has no explanation.

Collection of Hayford Peirce

Cf. Gnechi, II, p. 118, no. 24, pl. 120.5. He lists twelve other specimens and nineteen varieties (p. 117, no. 15 – p. 119, no. 33).

NUMERIAN

3. Bronze, 55.98 grams, 42 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 51.19

FIGURE 3

IMP C NVMERIANVS PFAVG COS

Half-length figure right, laureate, in consular robes, holding in left hand globe surmounted by Victory, in right, eagle-topped scepter or eagle-hilted sword.

ADLOCVTIO AVGG

Carinus and Numerian standing left on a platform with their right arms raised; behind them the praefectus praetorio left; before them four soldiers who hold two legionary eagles and, between these, a vexillum.

Struck at Rome, January 1, 284.

Though there are exceptional medallions of Carus and his family from Siscia and perhaps from Cyzicus, there is no reason to attribute this to any mint but that of Rome (Toynbee, p. 51).

The occasion of issue was the assumption of the consulship by Carinus and Numerian in 284. The scene of the two brothers addressing the army is only conventional, for Carinus was commanding the forces of the West against the Quadi and Sarmatians, while Numerian was with those of the East in Mesopotamia.

From the Jameson Collection, *Collection R. Jameson*, III, *Suite de monnaies grecques antiques et impériales romaines* (Paris, 1924), no. 469.

Cf. Gnechi, II, p. 122, no. 1, pl. 123.2 (London 40.8 grams, Paris 44.00 grams, Vienna 57.56 grams [two metals], 30.56 grams, 29.25 grams, Weber Collection 44.30 grams).

GALERIUS

4. Gold, 27.00 grams (5 aurei), 34 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 50.5

FIGURE 4

GAL VAL MAXIMIANVS NOB CAES

Bust right, laureate, in cuirass and paludamentum seen from the rear.

IOVI CONS CAES

Jupiter nude, his mantle behind him, looking left, holding a thunderbolt and leaning on a long scepter; at his feet, to left, eagle, looking right.

SMA (*Sacra Moneta Antiochensis*) in the exergue.

Struck at Antioch, presumably March 1, 293.

This magnificent piece has every appearance of being issued for the inauguration of Galerius as Caesar, apparently accompanied by aurei with the same type and from the same mint (Cohen, VII, p. 113, no. 118). This form of obverse inscription was used for some time, for we find it on a bronze medallion showing Galerius in consular robes, with a reverse on which the Emperor is riding down his foes where the inscription is VICTORIA PERSICA (Gnechi, II, p. 132, no. 7, pl. 129.4). This must have been struck to celebrate his second consulship in 297 and the capture of Ctesiphon, but the type here is perfectly appropriate for the beginning of Galerius' power. Diocletian had given him the name Jovius and a dedication IOVI CONSERVATORI CAESARIS would have been the most propitious of inaugural omens. A similar fine portrait is found on an aureus of Antioch (Trau Collection, *Hess Catalogue* [Lucerne, 1935], no. 3608). On the Cohen specimen referred to, the portrait is a head only, and the obverse inscription MAXIMIANVS NOB CAES. There is a star at the end of the reverse inscription and the mint mark is SMA^E. There is a similar portrait of Constantius from Antioch with the same mint mark and the reverse inscription HERCVLI CONS CAES (Cohen, VII,

p. 70, no. 145. Bement Sale, *Naville Catalogue*, VIII [1924], no. 1467, pl. 55). But the preceding number, of the same type, in the Bement Sale has a very different and much grosser portrait. There was evidently a large issue for Constantius and Galerius.

Unpublished. Excavated near Alexandria in 1942, with Nos. 6 and 17.

CONSTANTINE I

5. Gold, 6.68 grams (1½ solidi), 24 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 47.23

FIGURE 5

DN CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG

Bust right, laureate, in cuirass and paludamentum seen from in front.

EQVIS ROMANVS

The emperor riding right, raising the right hand.

SMN (*Sacra Moneta Nicomedensis*) in the exergue

Struck at Nicomedia, March 1, 325.

The Vicennalia of Constantine were celebrated at Rome in 326 but, by anticipation, at Nicomedia in 325, and this was the occasion for issuing a number of medallions. Maurice remarks, "Ces deux légendes présentant les mots: *Equis* et *Eques* sont un exemple des confusion de lettres fréquent à Nicomédie." Otto Seeck, in an article "Zu den Festmünzen Constantins und seiner Familie" (*Zeitschrift für Numismatik*, XXI [1898], pp. 17–65) calls attention to the fact that this type is always struck as a 1½ solidus piece whereas the medallions with SENATVS on the reverse (*ibid.*, pp. 22 f., pl. II.1) are 3 and 4½ solidus pieces. He believes that this represents the difference in value received by the two classes at the distribution of sportula at the celebration.

Cf. Trau Collection, *Hess Catalogue* (Lucerne, May 22, 1935), no. 3898, 6.65 gr. Gnechi, I, p. 16, no. 9, pl. 6.12 (Berlin 6.73 grams, Paris 6.66 grams, Vienna 6.80 grams, 6.55 grams, Gnechi 6.20 grams), pp. 15 f., no. 8 EQVES ROMANVS. Maurice, *Numismatique Constantinienne*, III, pp. 58 f., no. XII, pl. III, no. 2 (p. 58, no. XI EQVES ROMANVS).

6. Gold, 13.48 grams (3 solidi), 36 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 50.6

FIGURE 6

CONSTANTI NVS MAX AVG

Bust right, a diadem of rosettes in circles of pearls separated by pairs of laurel leaves. The paludamentum, seen from in front, is fastened at the shoulder with a jewelled brooch.

GAVDIVM AVGVSTI NOSTRI

Two Genii facing each other and holding a garland of flowers.
CONS (Constantinopolis) in the exergue.

Struck at Constantinople, March 1, 326.

A specimen of this type found in the Helleville Hoard was published by E. Babelon (*Revue numismatique* [1906], p. 170, no. 5) who conjectured that it was struck in connection with the consecration of Constantinople, May 11, 330. But there is evidence that dates it more exactly: The same type is used with the inscription VOTIS DECENN D N CONSTANTINI CAES from the mint of Thessalonica (*infra* No. 19). There can be no doubt that the two belong together. Maurice publishes the latter piece (II, pp. 466 f., no. XV) and remarks that the Decennalia of the Caesars, following the pattern of the Vicennalia of Constantine, were celebrated twice, first on March 1, 326, and again on March 1, 327, at Rome. Miss Toynbee (p. 175) comments on the general love of symmetry and heraldic compositions, and, in discussing the influence of sarcophagus sculpture, sees in the Genii with a garland a reflection of later third-century Amorini-and-garland sarcophagi. This piece and No. 19 have been published by Andreas Alfoldi in a discussion of the process by which the reality and spontaneity of such concepts as *Gaudium Publicum* gave place to formalization and official dictation ("Zur Erklärung der Konstantinischen Deckengemälde in Trier," *Historia*, IV [1955], pp. 131–150, pl. II, 6, 8).

Excavated near Alexandria in 1942, with Nos. 4 and 17.

Cf. Gnechi, I, p. 16, no. 17, pl. 6.14 (Paris, 13.32 grams) cf. no. 18, pl. 7.1 with the mint mark SMN.

7. Gold, 20.06 grams (4½ solidi), 36 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 49.4

FIGURE 7

CONSTANTINVS AVG

Head right, wearing diadem of square jewels separated by pairs of pearls, with a round jewel in front.

VIRTVS DN CONSTANTINI AVG

The Emperor in helmet and armor walking right and spurning a seated captive, beardless, in eastern dress; the Emperor carries a spear in his right hand and a trophy over his left shoulder.

SIS (Siscia) in the exergue.

Struck at Siscia, 325 or 326.

This is connected with the celebration of the Vicennalia of Constantine because of the similarity of the portrait to that on a medallion from the mint

of Rome (Maurice I, p. 245, no. XIII, pl. XVIII, 13). It is that type which Seeck (*loc. cit.*) believed to be meant as a gift to senators at the festival. The Roman medallion would belong to 326, the year of the Vicennalia at Rome. Whether our piece was a year earlier, or contemporary, depends on where this style of portrait was first used. It is not later than September 326, for then the mint of Siscia was closed, as it was until 330. Of the portrait Miss Toynbee remarks: "the large head, with or without legend, is combined, on medallions of Constantine I, Constantine II as Caesar, and Constantius II as Caesar, with the diadem and upward gaze borrowed from Alexander the Great to symbolize the heavenward aspirations of Rome's first Christian emperor."

From the Pierpont Morgan Collection. This piece has often been published: Cohen, VII, p. 311, no. 688; Agnes Baldwin [Brett] *Five Roman Gold Medallions. Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, 6 (1921), pp. 6 f.; Toynbee, pl. XXX. 6.

8. Gold, 6.68 grams (1½ solidi), 24 mm. ↙ Acc. no. 45.6

FIGURE 8

No inscription

Head right, wearing a diadem which is a band with a pattern of circles and loops.

GLORIA CON STANTINI AVG

Like the preceding type, except that the emperor, instead of holding a spear drags a second captive with his right hand. The captives are bearded.

SIS in the exergue.

Struck at Siscia, March 1, 335.

Maurice II (pp. 474 f, 477 f.) connects this type with the Tricennalia of Constantine and the Vicennalia of the Caesars (he prints "Vicennalia" and "Decennalia" by mistake, p. 475)

From the Trau Collection, *Hess Catalogue* (1935), no. 3928.

Cf. Gnechi, I, p. 17, no. 20, pl. 7.4 (Paris 6.34 grams, Montague 6.69 grams, Quelen 6.80 grams); the same type from Thessalonica (no. 21) and Nicomedia (no. 22). Maurice, II, p. 366, no. XIV, pl. X. 24

9. Gold, 6.62 grams (1½ solidi), 26 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 9

No inscription

Head right, wearing a diadem of rosettes separated by pairs of pearls.

GLORIA CONS TANTINI AVG

Virtus or the Emperor, in armor but without helmet, walking right between two bearded captives seated; the Emperor carries a spear in his right hand and a trophy over his shoulder.

SMTS (*Sacra Moneta Thessalonicensis*) in the exergue.

Struck at Thessalonica, March 1, 335.

Presumably, like No. 8, struck for the Tricennalia of Constantine.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Bement Collection, *Naville Catalogue* VIII [1924], no. 1479, same dies (this piece?). Trau Collection, no. 3911). Gnechi, I, p. 17, no. 23, pl. 7.5 (Vienna 6.93, 6.73). Maurice, II, pp. 477 f., no. VI.

10. Gold, 6.83 grams (1½ solidi), 25 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 10

No inscription.

Head right, wearing diadem decorated with pearls.

GLORIA CONSTA NTINI AVG

Virtus or the Emperor in armor but without helmet, standing left with his right foot on a seated bearded captive, another seated behind him; he holds in his right hand a globe surmounted by Victory and leans on his spear with his left hand.

SMN in the exergue; s in the right field (The usual late form of digamma, the mark of the sixth officina).

Struck at Nicomedia, March 1, 335 (cf. *supra* no. 8).

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Enrico Caruso Collection, *C. and E. Canessa Catalogue*, III (1923), no. 551. Same dies (6.63 grams). Trau Collection, No. 3900 (6.55 grams). Gnechi, I, p. 17, no. 27, pl. 7.6 (Berlin 6.51 grams, Budapest 6.82 grams, London 6.25 grams, Vienna 6.72 grams, Bourgey 6.72 grams). Maurice, III, pp. 78 f., no. XI, pl. III. 23.

11. Gold, 6.62 grams (1½ solidi), 26 mm. ↑ Acc. No. 57.4.23

FIGURE 11

The same types from different dies.

Bequest of Professor Friend.

12. Silver, 13.17 grams (4 argentei), 39 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 12

AVGVSTVS

Head right, with diadem of jewels surrounded by squares of pearls separated by pairs of leaves.

CAESAR

Within a wreath.

SIS (very small beneath wreath).

Struck at Siscia, 336.

The model for this type is, of course, the issue of the first Augustus with his bare head to the right and the inscription CAESAR behind it, while the reverse has AVGVSTVS in a laurel wreath (H. A. Grueber, *Coins of the Roman Republic in the British Museum*, II [1910], p. 546, nos. 293–297; Michael Grant, *The Six Main Aes Coinages of Augustus* [Edinburgh, 1953], p. 9, pl. XIV, 2–7). There the purpose was to connect his name with his unprecedented title. In this case both inscriptions are titles, but the superior title is now on the obverse joined to the portrait. Different identifications of the Emperor have been proposed, but the question is convincingly settled by J. Lafaurie in an article entitled “Une série de médailles d’argent de Constantin I et Constantin II” (*Revue numismatique* [1949], pp. 35–48). He studied this type and the associated medallions which have CAESAR on the obverse, xx on the reverse. The mints involved are Arles, Aquileia, Constantinople, Lyons, Siscia, Thessalonica and Treves, and arguing from the period of operation of those cities he concludes that the Emperor and Caesar concerned can only be Constantine I and his eldest son, the occasion being the celebration of the latter’s Vicennalia in 336. Since neither of Constantine’s other sons is involved, Lafaurie makes the interesting suggestion that the issue is evidence of a belated attempt to counteract the intrigue consequent on his plan of 335 to divide the empire between his three sons and two nephews. The medallions would be an announcement of the precedence of the eldest son. The portraiture is not inconsistent with these identifications, though it must be confessed that there is enough variation between the mints to give reason for the diversity of opinions expressed by previous students of the question. This piece is illustrated on his plate IV. 5 (though the weight is given as “13 gr. 6”), and he has no doubt that the denomination intended is four of the silver pieces of ninety-six to the pound introduced under the Tetrarchy.

Collection of Hayford Peirce. From the John Evans Collection, *Naville Catalogue (Ars Classica)*, XVII (1934), no. 1929.

Cf. Gnechi, I, p. 64, no. 4 (London, 12.80 grams).

13. Silver, 6.55 grams, 23 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 13

No inscription

Head right, with plain diadem.

CONSTANTINVS AVG

Constantine in military garb left, holding labarum and scepter.
R T in the exergue.

Struck at Rome, 326.

One of the medallions struck for Constantine's Vicennalia celebrated in Rome on July 25, 326, after having been celebrated in Antioch the preceding year (Maurice, I, pp. 243, 245). A broken specimen in Paris from the mint of Treves weighs only 3.00 grams. There seems to be no published example from Rome, or from any mint other than Treves.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Cohen, VII pp. 239 f., no. 104. Gnechi, I, p. 57, no. 1.

14. Silver, 5.12 grams, 26 mm. ↗ Acc. No. 48.17

FIGURE 14

No inscription

Head right, in diadem consisting of circles of pearls within squares of pearls, separated by pairs of laurel leaves; at the front a round jewel in a circle of pearls.

CONSTANTINVS AVG

Four military standards.

SMH in the exergue.

Struck at Heraclea, 325 or 326.

Like the preceding, this belongs to the Vicennalia of 325–6. The same type is recorded for Ticinum, Thessalonica, Constantinople, and Nicomedia. The weights of the first two and last are: 5.79, 4.50 and 5.00 grams. From Constantinople the weights are 4.42, 4.92 and 5.00 grams. Maurice (II, p. 600) classifies a piece of 4.45 grams from Heraclea with the same SMH mint mark as an argenteus, but the variation in weight makes it difficult to define the denomination. Cf. *infra* No. 20.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Cohen, VII, p. 240, no. 106. Gnechi, I, pp. 57 f., nos. 2–5.

15. Bronze, 29.705 grams, 32 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 15

[DN CONSTANTI] NVS MAXAVG

Bust right, wearing diadem, paludamentum, seen from in front, fastened at the shoulder with a jewelled brooch.

[SECVRI] TAS AV] GVSTI [N

Securitas looking right, her right hand on her head, her left arm leaning on a column; she holds a scepter in her left hand. Two captives seated to left and right.

Struck at Rome after 324.

Toynbee (p. 54): "We may, with some confidence, attribute most of the unmarked pieces of Constantine I, Crispus, and Constantius II to Rome." Maurice publishes three bronze medallions with portraits very much like this (I, pl. IX, 1, 7, 9). The first of these he dates to about 324, the second to 326, the third to 328 (I, pp. 102, 104, 105). The diadem shows that our piece was not earlier than 324, but it might be later.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Cohen, VII, pp. 286 f. no. 493. Gnechi, II, p. 135, no. 9, pl. 130.7 (Paris 34.00 grams, Vienna 25.90 grams, Gnechi 31.50 grams).

16. Bronze, 19.05 grams, 33 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 16

CONSTANTI NOPOLIS

Bust left, wearing crested helmet bound with laurel wreath, cuirass and paludamentum seen from in front; scepter over her left shoulder.

VICTORIA AVGVSTI

Constantinople seated left on throne without back, wearing turreted crown, holding in right hand laurel branch, in left, cornucopiae.

Struck at Constantinople, 330–337

This is one of a series of bronze medallions whose issue began with the ceremonies of inauguration of Constantinople in 330. They involve some iconographic inventiveness and ambiguity. The obverse type, showing the bust of the city in the guise of the war-goddess to left or right, calls for no comment except to point out that on a contemporary series Rome appears in similar fashion, though without the wreath on the helmet or the scepter (Gnechi, II, pl. 132, 3–12). This warlike image is paired with the reverse figure which shows the new capital city with the olive branch of peace, the towered crown of her civic state, and the horn of plenty. This representation is varied on other examples. One shows her crowned by a Victory standing behind her (Gnechi, II, pl. 131, 10, 11), while another presents a conflation of ideas: the figure is seated, like ours, with laurel branch, crown, and cornucopiae; in addition, her foot is on a prow — which signifies the importance of her commerce and becomes one of her characteristic symbols (Toynbee,

Journal of Roman Studies, 37 [1947], pp. 140 f.; *Roman Medallions*, pp. 187 f.) — but in this case she has the wings of Victory herself, making their association into an identity. There is no way of telling in what order these varieties appeared; the reverse inscription limits them only to the lifetime of Constantine I (Gnecchi, II, pp. 136–138, nos. 1–14; *Roman Medallions*, pp. 187 f.) None of these medallions have mint marks. It is a natural assumption that the portraits of Constantinople and of Rome should have come from those two mints. There may have been others involved however which can ultimately be identified on stylistic grounds by comparison of a large body of material (cf. Maurice, I, p. 252). Cf. *infra* No. 39.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Cohen, VII, pp. 325 f., no. 16. Gnecchi, II, p. 137, no. 11, pl. 131. 12 (Rome 24.40 grams).

DELMATIUS

17. Gold, 6.6 grams (1½ solidi), 26 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 50.7

FIGURE 17

FL DELMATIVS NOB CAES

Bust right, laureate, in cuirass and paludamentum seen from in front.

VIRTVS CAESARVM N N

Delmatius in military garb, but without helmet, looking right, resting his foot on one seated captive and an inverted spear on a second, holding uncertain object in his left hand.

CONS in the exergue.

Struck at Constantinople, 335.

It was in 335 that Constantine's nephew Delmatius, the magister militum, was given the rank of Caesar for his suppression of the insurrection of Calocaerus in Cyprus. The object in the left hand is something of an enigma, though there are two parallels. Miss Toynbee illustrates a nine-solidi medallion of Constantius II as Caesar from the museum at Königsberg (pl. VI, 5). It shows Constantine enthroned, flanked by his three sons and Delmatius — therefore of the same date as ours — with the two elder sons holding objects similar, but not as well preserved. A little earlier, since it does not include Delmatius, is a medallion of Constans from Gotha published by Maurice (*Revue numismatique* [1906], p. 30, pl. 3.3). On it appear Constantine and his three sons, and in this case it is the Emperor who holds the object in his left hand, a standard in his right. This is the piece published by Cohen, no. 101, who calls it a "massue?" Maurice in describing

the type (*Revue numismatique* [1901], p. 197) says "massue" without any question mark. That it has a military function seems obvious, but I am very doubtful about its being a club. On our medallion the surface is covered with little dots just like Delmatius' boots, which would imply that the material was similar. The most persuasive suggestion that I have heard is that of my colleague Miss D. H. Cox who thinks that it might be a quiver. It is to be noticed that there are little dots at the top, particularly conspicuous on Miss Toynbee's plate, which are perhaps the feathered arrows. But there is certainly no bow, and I can suggest no parallels for the appearance of a ceremonial quiver at this time.

Unpublished. Excavated near Alexandria in 1942, with Nos. 4 and 6.

CONSTANTINE II, CAESAR

18. Gold, 6.68 grams (1½ solidi), 23 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 51.16

FIGURE 18

FL CL CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C

Bust right, laureate, in cuirass and paludamentum seen from in front.

PRINCPIA IVV ENTVTIS

Constantine left in armor, but without helmet, trampling on captive who raises his hands in supplication; the Caesar holds a globe in his right hand and leans with his left on a reversed spear.

SARMATIA in the exergue

Struck at Treviri, 333.

There are other medallions where the mint mark TR stands under SARMATIA, making the mint certain (Toynbee, pl. 53, note 91). The victory over the Sarmatians here celebrated was won on November 25 or December 1, 332 (Maurice, I, pp. 482–84). The head is much too small for the bust, but that peculiarity is shared by the piece in the Vierordt Collection which seems to be from the same obverse die, though the reverse die is different.

From the Jameson Collection, *Collection R. Jameson*, II, *Monnaies impériales romaines* [Paris, 1913], no. 364.

Cf. Vierordt Collection, *Schulman Catalogue* [1923], no. 2709. *Weber Collection*, no. 2624. There is a larger denomination of the same type: Cohen, VII, p. 381, no. 139 (8.90 grams, 2 solidi). Gnechi, I, p. 24, no. 6. Trau Collection, no. 4079 (8.93 grams). Maurice, I, p. 485, no. VI, pl. XXIII.17.

19. Gold, 13.5 grams (3 solidi), 32 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 49.5

FIGURE 19

CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB CAES

Bust left, laureate, in cuirass and paludamentum, holding in the right hand a globe surmounted by Victory, and in the left the head of an eagle-topped scepter or sword.

VOTIS DECENN D N CONSTANTINI CAES

Two Genii facing each other and holding a garland of flowers.
SMTS in the exergue.

Struck at Thessalonica, March 1, 326.

This medallion has already been discussed in connection with No. 6 *supra*.

From the Pierpont Morgan Collection. This piece has been published in *Sammlung Consul*, ed. F. Weber, [Munich, 1909], no. 2627. Toynbee, pl. XLVIII. 6. Alföldi, *Historia*, IV (1955), pl. II, 8 (cf. *supra* No. 6). Gnechi, I, p. 26.21, pl. 9.8; another specimen, pl. 9.7.

20. Silver, 5.74 grams, 24 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 20

No inscription

Head right, with plain diadem.

CONSTANTINVS CAESAR

Four military standards.

CONS e in the exergue.

Struck at Constantinople, 324–326.

This belongs with the issues which Maurice connects with the anniversary of 326 (Maurice, II, pp. 496–502). For some reason he does not list it under Constantinople, though he does include a specimen from Antioch (Maurice, III, p. 208, no. XVI) with a reference to Cohen, 81, which is our issue. He defines it as a miliarense (also, through a slip, as gold!); Cohen's specimen of 4.80 grams might be thought of as a heavy miliarense which had a theoretical weight of 4.74 grams, but neither the present specimen, nor Gnechi's, that weighs 5.76 grams, can be considered as a miliarense. The siliqua 2.60 grams and the medallion of 5.45 grams are equally difficult to adjust (Maurice, I, p. XLV). Either there is another standard involved, not yet identified, or these presentation pieces were struck with a thorough indifference to their relation to the coins.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Cohen, VII, p. 373, no. 81. Gnechi, I, p. 60, no. 3.

CONSTANS I

21. Gold, 8.85 grams (2 solidi), 28 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 21

FLIVLCONS TANSPFAVG

Bust right, wearing diadem of rosettes and square jewels separated by pairs of laurel leaves. The paludamentum, seen from the front, is fastened at the shoulder with a jewelled brooch.

VICTORIAE DDNNAVGG

Two Victories standing, holding between them a wreath within which is the inscription VOTXMXVLXX.

Leaf, sis. in the exergue

Struck at Siscia 347

The same type was struck by Constantius II (Toynbee, pl. XIII. 1, 2), and Constans used also the mints of Aquileia and Treviri for these medallions (Gnechi, I, p. 28, nos. 14–18). It was evidently a large issue to celebrate their Decennalia as Augusti which came in 347. The inscription VOTIS X MULTIS XX is of a very common class on the coins. Vows were offered annually for the safety of the emperors, but every ten years a particularly impressive ceremony was held to record the fulfillment of those vows for the last decade and renew them for the next.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Toynbee, pl. XIII.4 (Gotha). A lower denomination, Cohen, VII, p. 430, no. 168 (London, 6.73 grams, 1½ solidi). Trau Collection, no. 4118 (6.71 grams).

22. Silver, 10.855 grams (5 siliquae), 38 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 22

FL IVL CONSTANS [PI] VS FELIX AVG

Bust right, wearing diadem of round jewels in circles of pearls separated by pairs of laurel leaves. The paludamentum, seen from in front, fastened at the shoulder by a jewelled brooch.

GAVDIVM [PO]PVLI ROMANI

Wreath, within which SIC V SIC X.

TES (Thessalonica) in the exergue.

Struck at Thessalonica, 342.

Siscia also issued this type but Constantius II did not share it. SIC V SIC X is another expression for VOTIS V MULTIS X, celebration of the five year

interval being a supplement to the older Decennalia. The weights of well-preserved specimens of this and of Nos. 24 and 33 are, with one exception, lighter than No. 12, which is apparently of the same size. They were probably intended to represent five siliquae of 2.72 grams.

Collection of Hayford Peirce. From the John Evans Collection, *Naville Catalogue (Ars Classica)*, XVII (1934), no. 1923. Toynbee, p. 83, pl. XIII.10.

Cf. Gnechi, I, p. 62, no. 5 (London 12.52 grams, Paris 12.95 grams, Trau 10.40 grams).

23. Silver, 4.70 grams (2 siliquae), 27 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 23

FL IVL CONS TANS PFAVG

Bust right, wearing diadem of round jewels in circles of pearls separated by pairs of laurel leaves. The paludamentum, seen from in front, fastened at the shoulder by a jewelled brooch.

GAVDIVM POPVLI ROMANI

Wreath, within which, SIC X SIC XX. To left and right, palms.
SIS in the exergue.

Struck at Siscia, 347.

A lower denomination than No. 22, issued at Siscia at the same time as No. 24. Constantius II also struck these (Gnechi, I, p. 66, no. 31). They are perhaps to be regarded as normal coins, though the books class them as medallions and the weights are somewhat erratic. Two siliquae would theoretically weigh 5.20 grams. Cohen's specimen is 5.35 grams, Gnechi's are 4.82, 4.85, 5.20, and 5.25 grams.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Cohen, VII, p. 411, no. 40. Gnechi, I, p. 62, no. 12. Trau Collection No. 4123.

24. Silver, 12.43 grams (5 siliquae), 39 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 24

FL IVL CONS TANS PFAVG

Bust right, wearing diadem of round jewels in circles of pearls separated by pairs of laurel leaves. The paludamentum, seen from in front, fastened at the shoulder by a jewelled brooch.

TRIVMFATOR GENT IVM BARBARARVM

The Emperor, in military garb but without helmet, looking to the left,

holding in his hand a reversed spear and, with his right, a standard bearing Christogram.

·SIS· in the exergue.

Struck at Siscia, 347.

The same type was struck at Aquileia (Gnechi, I, p. 63, no. 19); similar ones with the same reverse inscription at Treviri (*ibid.*, no. 20) and Thessalonica (no. 21). There are parallels from all three mints for Constantius II (pp. 67 f., nos. 46–53. Cf. *infra* No. 33.) The deeds celebrated were undoubtedly Constans' successful campaign against the northern barbarians which began soon after the death of Constantine II in 340, but since Constantius II, who was in Asia and had no connection with these victories, was so frequently associated in the issue, its occasion must have been the Decennalia of 347.

Collection of Hayford Peirce. From the John Evans Collection, *Naville Catalogue (Ars Classica)*, XVII (1934), no. 1926.

Cf. Gnechi, I, p. 63, no. 18, pl. 30.9, 10 (Berlin 12.94 grams, London 12.36 grams, Monaco 12.90 grams, Paris 12.40 grams, Vienna 13.22 grams).

25. Silver, 4.10 grams (2 siliquae), 25 mm. ✎ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 25

FL IVL CONS TANS PFAVG

Bust right, wearing diadem of round jewels in circles of pearls separated by pairs of laurel leaves. The paludamentum, seen from in front, fastened at the shoulder by a jewelled brooch.

VICTORIA AVGSTORVM

Victory walking left, holding wreath and palm. Another palm in the field to left.

SIS and a wreath in the exergue.

Struck in Siscia, 340–350.

There are double siliquae of Constantius II with exactly this reverse (Gnechi, I, p. 68, no. 55), but none of Constantine II. They, therefore, come after his death in 340. I should be inclined to put this type later than No. 23, that is to 348–350, chiefly on account of the gradual lessening of the weights. Thirteen specimens of this type give an average of 4.25 grams, with a high of 4.50 and a low of 3.90 grams, while twenty specimens of the other have an average of 4.94 grams, with a high of 5.60 and a low of 4.14 grams. On the other hand a specimen of VICTORIA AVGSTORVM in the Trau Collec-

tion (no. 4124) has a much younger looking portrait of Constans, which may be taken as evidence that the issue was of considerable duration.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Gnechi, I p. 63, no. 23.

26. Bronze, 18.7 grams, 32 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 26

CONSTANS PF AVG

Bust right, wearing diadem of round jewels in circle of pearls separated by pairs of laurel leaves. The paludamentum, seen from in front, fastened at the shoulder by a jewelled brooch.

VIRTVS AVGGNN

The Emperor in military garb, but without helmet, standing right, holding spear and globe.

Struck in Rome, 337–350.

There is no way to date this more closely. At a later period the fact that the obverse inscription is unbroken would indicate that the Emperor shown was a junior partner, but that is not a safe assumption to make for this time. Neither of the other brothers struck the same type, though Constantius used several varieties with a single Augustus in the inscription (cf. *infra* on No. 29). Of course, if AVGG NN signifies a dual, the issue is later than the death of Constantine II, but it can perfectly well stand for the plural.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Cohen, VII p. 432, no. 182. Gnechi, II, p. 145, no. 27 (Berlin 21.57 grams, Paris. 23.50, 20.00 grams, Vienna 22.45 grams, Gnechi 22.10 grams, Martinelli 21.75 grams).

CONSTANTIUS II

27. Gold, 9.00 grams (2 solidi), 26 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 51.18

FIGURE 27

FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB C

Bust right, laureate, in embroidered consular robes holding an eagle-topped scepter.

AETERNA GLORIA SENAT P Q R

In a chariot drawn by four elephants Constantine I and Constantius II hold scepters and raise their right hands; to left and right are soldiers with palms.

PTR (Pecunia Trevirensis) in the exergue.

Struck at Treviri, March 1, 326.

The Consuls for 326 were Constantine (for the seventh time) and Constantius. In the period from 324 to 326 this mint issued a large number of gold types celebrating the victories of Constantine (Maurice, I, pp. 461–470). The elephants are scarcely less real a convention than the ancient formula *Senatus Populusque Romanus*.

Said to be from the Jameson Collection, but not in the Catalogue of that Collection. Trau Collection, no. 4261, Weber Collection (1909), no. 2643.

Cf. Gnechi, I, pp. 28 f., no. 1, pl. 10.6.7 (Paris 8.76 grams. This piece is listed three times, as: "Già d'Amécourt m. 27, gr. 9.000," "Già Coll. Weber m.25, gr. 8.990," and "Trau m.26, gr. 8.980"!)

28. Gold, 5.45 grams (aureus), 22 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 51.17

FIGURE 28

DN CONSTAN TIVS NOB CAES

Head right, with plain diadem.

No inscription

Constantius in a facing quadriga, scattering money and holding an eagle-topped scepter.

CONS in the exergue.

Struck at Constantinople, January 1, 335.

This was a large issue for the anniversary celebration of 335. Cf. Gnechi, I, p. 21, no. 67, pl. 8.7 (Constantine I); Toynbee pl. II.15,16 (Constantine I), pl. III. 1; and Maurice, II, p. 539, no. XVI, pl. XVI.15 (Constans, Caesar). Miss Toynbee discusses this type (pp. 40 f.) together with the others of this weight, abnormal for the time and obviously designed as "fest-aurei." For the unusual form of the obverse inscription cf. Gnechi, I, p. 61, no. 10: DN CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB CAES. D(ominus) N(ostrer) Constantinus Jun(ior) Nob(ilissimus) Caes(ar).

From the Jameson Collection. *Collection R. Jameson, IV, Suite de Monnaies grecques antiques et impériales romaines* (Paris, 1932), p. 112 no. 534, pl. XXVI. Toynbee, pl XXX. 7

29. Gold, 6.68 grams (1½ solidi), 26 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 29

FL IVL CONSTAN TIVS PERPAVG

Bust right, with diadem of a double row of pearls with a rosette in front. Beneath the paludamentum a necklace of pearls; the epaulets are partly visible.

FELIX ADVENTVS AVG N

Constantius riding left, raising his right hand.

KONSA^{AV} (*Konstantia = Arelate*) in the exergue.

Struck at Arles, 354.

The occasion was probably the Tricennalia of Constantius, counting from his creation as Caesar.

Collection of Hayford Peirce. From the Jameson Collection, *Collection R. Jameson*, IV., no. 535.

30. Gold, 20.05 grams (4½ solidi), 39 mm. ↓ Acc. No. 48.17

FIGURE 30

FLIVLCONSTAN TIVSPERPAVG

Bust left, wearing a diadem of round jewels in circles of pearls separated by pairs of laurel leaves. The epaulets of a cuirass show beneath the paludamentum, which is fastened at the right shoulder with a jewelled brooch.

GLORIARO MANORVM

Constantinople, seated left on high-backed, richly-decorated throne wearing stephane, necklace, tunic with girdle and mantle; she holds in her right hand a globe surmounted by a Victory to the right offering her a wreath, in her left hand a long scepter ending in a pine-cone; her left foot is on a prow beneath which is an alligator's head.

·SMANT· in the exergue.

For commentary see *infra*, No. 32.

Collection of Hayford Peirce. Toynbee, pl. XXXVIII.4 (this piece, formerly in the Trau Collection).

Cf. Gnechi, I, p. 31, no. 25.

31. Gold, 20.04 grams (4½ solidi), 39 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 31

Similar obverse.

Similar reverse, except that beneath the prow there is a lion's head.

SMANT in the exergue.

For commentary see *infra* No. 32.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Gnechi, I, p. 31, no. 22, pl. 11.8.

32. Gold, 19.22 grams (4½ solidi), 39 mm. ↗ Acc. no. 48.17 FIGURE 32

Similar obverse. Remains of mounting in the form of six gold pellets on top of the emperor's head.

Similar reverse.

SMANT in the exergue.

Struck at Antioch, 348.

This type is discussed by Miss Toynbee in her article, "Roma and Constantinopolis in Late-antique Art" (*Journal of Roman Studies*, 37, [1947], pp. 140 f.) She believes that the medallions were issued in 348 for the eleven-hundredth anniversary of Rome. They were struck at Antioch, Nicomedia, Sirmium, and Rome. The Victory on a globe is the normal attribute of Rome, but the high-backed throne, the prow, and the thyrsus scepter belong to Constantinople. The thyrsus is a Dionysiac symbol appropriate to the capital of the East. The stephane, which is worn instead of the usual turreted head-dress, is an innovation.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

A specimen from the mint of Rome is published by Friedrich Wielandt, *Bonner Jahrbücher* [1949], pp. 309–311. The type for Constans, Gnechi, I, p. 27, no. 7, pl. 9.13 (Berlin 20.17 grams).

33. Silver, 13.066 grams (5 siliquae), 39 mm. ↓ Acc. No. 48.17 FIGURE 33

FL IVL CONSTANTI VS PIVS FELIX AVG

Bust right, with diadem of rosettes of pearls separated by pairs of laurel leaves. The epaulets of both shoulders showing under the paludamentum.

TRIVMFATOR GENTIVM BARBARARVM

The emperor, in military garb but without helmet, looking to the left, holding vexillum with his right hand and leaning on shield.

TES in the exergue.

Struck at Thessalonica, 347.

Like No. 24 *supra*, struck for the Decennalia of 347, and to commemorate the victories of Constans over the northern barbarians.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Gnechi, I, p. 68, no. 50 (Paris 13.22 grams, Vienna 13.00 grams, Hertzfelder 12.80 grams, Weber 10.40 grams).

34. Bronze, 32.348 grams, 37 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 34

DN CONSTAN TIVSPFAVG

Bust right, with diadem of rosettes separated by pairs of laurel leaves, the paludamentum fastened at the shoulder with a jewelled brooch.

VICTORIA AVGNOSTRI

Victory, left, with wreath and palm.

Struck at Rome, November 352.

Assuming that the mint is Rome (Toynbee, p. 54), it is not hard to find an occasion for the striking of this medallion. There is a very similar one of Magnentius with the inscription VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM, of which a number of specimens are known (Gnechi, II, p. 154, no. 7. Cf. *infra* No. 40). Like No. 41, *infra*, these must have been issued at the time that Magnentius, who had supplanted Constans, was trying to negotiate an alliance and division of empire with Constantius. Magnentius' usurpation was on January 18, 350, and by February he had won Italy. By the spring of 351 Constantius was marching against him, and all hope of reconciliation was over. Between these dates, therefore, Magnentius' medallion must have been issued. Though Constantius won a decisive victory at Mursa on September 28, 351, it was not until late in the next year that he was in control of Rome. We may suppose that he then acted as promptly as possible to counteract Magnentius' attempt to show that there were two legitimate Augusti, one means being the issue of this extremely close copy of the usurper's medallion now bearing the appropriate legend VICTORIA AVGVSTI NOSTRI.

Collection of Hayford Peirce. From the Trau Collection, No. 4162.

Cf. Gnechi, II, p. 148, no. 25, pl. 137.1 (Rome, 20.60 grams).

35. Bronze, 13.60 grams, 31 mm. ↗ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 35

The same types from different dies.

36. Bronze, 23.26 grams, 35 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 41.3

FIGURE 36

DN CONSTAN TIVS PFAVG

Bust right, with diadem of two rows of pearls with a rosette in front, the paludamentum fastened at the shoulder with a jewelled brooch.

VIRTV SAVG

The emperor in military garb, but without helmet, looking right, holding in his left hand a globe surmounted by Victory and leaning on a spear; a seated captive at his feet.

For commentary see *infra* No. 38.



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43



A



B



C



45



46



47



D



47



37. Bronze, 13.65 grams, 34 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 37

The same types from different dies.

For commentary see *infra* No. 38.

38. Bronze, 19.956 grams, 36 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 38

DN FL CONSTAN TIVSPFAVG

Otherwise the same.

Struck in Rome, November 352.

These medallions, like No. 34, are counter-propaganda against Magnentius who had issued two varieties with the legend **VIRTVS AVGSTORVM** (Gnechi, II, p. 154, nos. 9, 10. *Infra*, No. 41). Constantius replied with a large number inscribed **VIRTVS AVG** or **AVG N** or **AVG NOSTRI** or **AVGVSTI** or **AVGVSTI N** (Gnechi, II, pp. 150–152, nos. 41–45, 48–58. No. 47 — Cohen, p. 486 no. 302 — has been retouched and is not valid evidence, but no. 46 reads **VIRTVS AVGG** and no. 59 **VIRTVS AVGSTORVM**. Either these are die-sinkers' errors, or they were struck with or without Constantius' approval at the time negotiations were going on. Unfortunately they are not illustrated, and each is represented by a single specimen).

No. 36, gift of Joseph Brummer; Nos. 37, 38, Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Gnechi, II, p. 150, no. 43, pl. 137.8 (Florence 19.53 grams, Madrid 17.30 grams, Paris 18.00 grams, Rome 24.50 grams, Martinetti 23.50 grams, Hertzfelder 17.30 grams).

No. 38 is a variety in neither Cohen nor Gnechi.

39. Bronze, 20.10 grams, 34 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 39

CONSTAN TINOPOLIS

Bust left, wearing crested helmet bound with laurel wreath, cuirass, and paludamentum, seen from in front; scepter over her left shoulder.

FEL TE MP REPARATIO

Constantinople standing left, wearing turreted headdress, holding in her outstretched right hand a branch of laurel, and leaning with her left on standard. At her feet, a prow of a ship.

Struck in Constantinople, 345.

The reverse inscription is one used on the small bronze of Constans, Constantius II, Constantius Gallus, and Julian, though none of the types

is like this. The coins, which form a particularly abundant series, probably begin at the time of the celebration of Rome's millennium in 345 and continue to the death of Constantius II in 361. This is the single use on a medallion of this legend celebrating the return of the Golden Age, and it may, therefore, be supposed to belong to its first appearance. Since Constantinople appears on both sides, I assume that the medallion was struck there and that it should, therefore, be assigned to Constantius II rather than to Constans I. Cf. *supra* No. 16.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Cohen, VII ff., 332 f., no. 3, Gnechi, II, p. 136, no. 2 (Florence 23.68 grams, Paris 17.50 grams, Martinelli 19.00 grams).

MAGNENTIUS

40. Bronze, 16.70 grams, 33 mm. ↑ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 40

IMP CAE MAGN ENTIVS AVG

Bust right, bare-headed, in cuirass and paludamentum, seen from the front.

VICTOR IAAVGG

Victory left, with wreath and palm, her right foot on captive bound, kneeling left, turning his head toward her.

Struck in Rome, February 350 – Spring 351.

The circumstances have been discussed in connection with No. 34.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. Cohen, VIII, p. 18, no. 62. Gnechi, II, p. 153, no. 6 (Budapest 15.55 grams, London 17.75 grams, Gnechi 18.00 grams, Trau 14.40 grams).

41. Bronze, 21.036 grams, 35 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 41

IMPCAE MAGN ENTIVS AVG

Bust right, bare-headed, in cuirass and paludamentum, seen from the front.

[VIR]TVS AV GVST[ORVM]

Magnentius in military garb, but without helmet, looking right, holding sheathed sword in his left hand and leaning on reversed spear.

Struck in Rome, February 350 – Spring 351.

The circumstances have been discussed in connection with No. 34.

Collection of Hayford Peirce. From the Vierordt Collection. *Schulman Catalogue*, (1923), No. 2782. Weber Collection (1909) No. 2684.

Cf. Gnechi, II, p. 154, no. 10, pl. 138.9 (Florence 25.64 grams, Gotha 36.75 grams).

VALENTINIAN I

42. Bronze, 7.14 grams, 28 mm. ↙ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 42

DN VALENTINI ANVSPFAVG

Bust right, with diadem of two rows of pearls and jewel in a square in front, both epaulets showing under the paludamentum.

RESTITVTOR REIPVBLCIAE

Emperor, in military garb but without helmet, looking right, holding in his left hand a globe surmounted by Victory, and, with his right, a standard.

SMAQP (*Sacra Moneta Aquileiensis Prima – sc. officina*) in the exergue.

Struck at Aquileia, March 28, 364 – August 24, 364.

This is classed by Pearce as “Aes I,” but the rarity of that denomination and the variation in weight suggest a medalllic character. The same type is issued in the name of Valens, but not in that of Gratian which gives the terminal dates.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

Cf. J. W. E. Pearce, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, IX, p. 95, no. 6 a 1 (Vienna 8.49 grams, London 7.97 grams).

ANASTASIUS I

43. Gold, 5.35 grams (aureus), 25 mm. ↘ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 43

DNANASTA SIVSPPAVG

Bust right, with diadem of two rows of pearls with rosette in front, paludamentum fastened at the shoulder with a jewelled brooch.

VICTOR IA AVGVSTORVM

Victory left, with wreath and palm; in the field, to left Christogram, to right star.

CONOB (*Constantinopolis Obryzum – sc fine gold*) in the exergue.

Struck at Constantinople, April 11, 491 – July 1, 518.

The obverse type is that of the semis and triens, the reverse that of the solidus. This shows that the coin is regarded as a separate denomination. The weight is a little light even for 1½ solidi; the Ratto Catalogue assumes

that 1½ is intended but it is probably an aureus of 1/60 lb. (Philip Grierson in *The Numismatic Chronicle*, Sixth Series, 15 [1955], p. 62). There is no known occasion in the reign of Anastasius particularly marked out as likely to have been celebrated by special issues. The AVGVSTORVM of the reverse legend no longer means that there was more than one Augustus, but is a modification of VICTORIA giving her a formal and permanent relation to all emperors, past, present, and future.

Collection of Hayford Peirce. *Ratto Catalogue*, (Lugano, 1930), p. 17, no. 308.

JUSTIN I

44. Silver, 12.40 grams (5 siliquae?), 39 mm. ↙ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURES 44, A, B, and C

Traces of inscription]INVS AVG

Bust right, diademed, in cuirass and paludamentum.

VOT XXXX MVS.T [XX]XX

Within a wreath.

Struck in Constantinople, July 1, 518 — August 1, 527.

This strange medallion is of clumsy workmanship, and very badly struck. The latter fact, and not wear, accounts for its illegibility. There are, however, two specimens in the collection of the American Numismatic Society: the first reading ST NVSPPAV[G and, on the reverse, VOT XXXX MVS.T XXXX between palms, with CONOB in the exergue (fig. A); the second with IVST]VSAVI and VOT XXXX MVST XX[X]X between palms (fig. B). The former weighs 11.99 grams; the latter 12.11 grams; the die positions of both are ↓. A fourth specimen, weighing 11.85 grams, was published by Behrendt Pick (*Numismatische Zeitschrift* [1927], pp. 21–26). The poor striking makes it difficult to be certain, but it seems probable that all four came from the same dies. Pick supposed that the emperor was Justinian I, but the placing of the legible letters on the obverse makes it impossible to restore IVST[INIA]-NVS, and the portrait must be that of Justin I. Pick comments on the close beard which in earlier days had been the sign of a pagan, and refers to the statement of Malalas (1, 18) to prove that Justinian was sometimes bearded. I know of no such evidence for Justin I, though the solidus illustrated by Warwick Wroth (*Catalogue of the Imperial Byzantine Coins in the British Museum* [London, 1908], pl. II, 11) could certainly be interpreted as bearded, and if the return to imperial beards belongs to this period, the innovation may quite as well have been made by the Illyrian

peasant as by his nephew and successor. Of the gold of Justin I, Wroth remarks, "The solidi of this reign (cf. also those of Justinian) are very rude, and the specimens here described might well be classed as barbarous imitations" (*op. cit.*, p. 11, note 2). The portrait is at least no worse than that on the small silver of Justin I (*ibid.*, pl. III, 1, 2, 4) though the mistake of MVS.T for MVLT is a gross and surprising sign of carelessness. It should be recalled, however, that even the great gold medallion of Justinian, once in Paris (*ibid.*, frontispiece), is guilty of the error IVSTINIANVS, and the silver medallion of Leo (J. Sabatier, *Monnaies byzantines*, I, [Paris, 1862], pl. VII, 1; here fig. C; Pick, *op. cit.*, p. 21) has the reverse VOT XXXV MXLT [xxx]x. Both dates are, of course, impossible for the respective reigns, but the fact that the semes of Justin I bear the inscription xxxx (Wroth, *op. cit.*, p. 12, nos. 7–10) shows that the original significance was forgotten or ignored. Pick is doubtless right in believing that after Theodosius II *vota* numbers are meaningless. Another lapse of convention to which he calls attention is the use of CONOB on silver, OB being properly used on gold (obryzum).

The weights are as suitable for five siliquae as are the silver medallions of the fourth century (*supra* Nos. 17, 18, 25), but silver issues were by this time so rare that it is likely enough that all intended relation was abandoned.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

45. Silver, 3.97 grams (2 siliquae), 27 mm. ↓ Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 45

IVST(I) NVS PP AVI

Bust right, diademed in cuirass and paludamentum, the inscription surrounded by a circle of large dots.

GLORIA RO MANORVM

The Emperor, nimbate, standing front, looking to right, wearing cuirass and paludamentum, holding in his left hand a globus cruciger, and leaning with his right on a long spear; in the field to right, a star; a thin exergue line over which the feet project. Beneath the line, TO. The inscription surrounded by a circle of large dots. Double struck

Struck July 1, 518 – August 1, 527.

The weight being about that of 2 siliquae, like two pieces in the British Museum (Wroth, p. 13. nos. 14 f.), this might be regarded as a normal coin particularly as the types are those of the siliqua. But the diameter is distinctly greater than theirs, and the circle of dots on both sides much more

conspicuous. The general appearance is like that of No. 46, and all such silver pieces of this time are sufficiently rare to raise the presumption that they were special issues and not part of the normal currency. There is one of Anastasius, published by De Saulcy (*Essai de classification des suites monétaires byzantines* [Metz, 1836], p. 3, pl. I, 3). On this the portrait is to the left; the figure on the reverse raises his right hand and holds a simple globe. The mint mark is CONOB (printed in error by De Saulcy as CONST.). An adaptation of this issue was coined by Justin I (De Saulcy, p. 4, pl. I, 8, quoted by Sabatier, p. 161, no. 8; Wroth, p. 13, pl. III, 1); the mint mark here is COB. Sabatier publishes another issue (pp. 160 f., pl. IX, 23) of which the types are those of the gold (e.g. Wroth, pl. II, 10 f.): the portrait three-quarters facing; the reverse, Victory facing with a long cross and a globus cruciger and the inscription VICTOR I AAVGGCΔ. The chief difficulty of our piece is caused by the letters to where one expects the mint mark. I know of no analogy and can offer no explanation.

Collection of Hayford Peirce. Unpublished

JUSTINIAN I

46. Silver, 3.78 grams, 25 mm. [¶] Acc. no. 48.17

FIGURE 46

DNIVSTINI ANVSPPAVI

Bust facing, with plumed helmet, cuirass, and shield with horseman device; in his right hand a globus cruciger. Around the edge is the inscription + co + ns + ta + nt. Between the two inscriptions a circle of large dots.

GLORIA RO MANORVM

The emperor, nimbate, standing left, with his right hand leaning on a long spear, with his left on a shield; a line beneath his feet; in the field to right, a star. The inscription surrounded by a circle of large dots. There are three holes, two of which have been broken away, evidently intended for suspending the medal like an amulet. The piercing was not done by someone who understood the piece, for if it were suspended by any of the holes the Emperor would be off center and upside down.

Struck at Constantinople, April 538–November 14, 565

A specimen from different dies in the Cabinet des Médailles is published by Sabatier (p. 178, pl. XII, 6; an enlarged photograph in Hayford Peirce and Royall Tyler, *L'Art byzantin*, II [Paris, 1934], pl. 72 F). Ernest Babellon discusses it in connection with the great gold medallion of Justinian (*Mélanges numismatiques, troisième série* [Paris, 1900], pp. 326–336).

He accepts Sabatier's explanation of the exterior inscription on the obverse as the mint mark of Constantinople. He also concludes that it was the figure of the armed Emperor on the reverse which was mistaken for that of Belisarius and gave rise to the Byzantine tradition that at Belisarius' triumph, in March 535, the emperor struck coins bearing his own portrait on one side, and that of his general on the other. Although it is certainly not Belisarius who appears on any coin or medal, Babelon believes that the tradition has sufficient value to allow us to assign this medallion and the gold one to the year 535. To this tempting suggestion it must be objected that the introduction of the facing imperial portrait which our obverse shows, and which belongs to the second class of gold (Wroth, pl. IV, 11, 12), is dated by the bronze to Justinian's twelfth year, that is, 538 (Wroth, pl. V, 4). It is impossible to believe that our obverse is an innovation which was not followed on the other coins for three years, though, once adopted, it became invariable. We must therefore date the silver medallion to 538 or later, while the gold medallion, which shows the three-quarters facing portrait of the earlier solidi, may well have belonged to Belisarius' triumph. Nevertheless, there are silver pieces with profile portrait, like the earlier bronze, which are presumably antecedent to ours. The order of their issue seems to be as follows: 1) reverse with nimbate emperor standing to left, looking right with long spear and globus cruciger, that is, the same type as that of No. 45 *supra* (Wroth, pl. V, 1; Babelon p. 328, fig. 4); 2) emperor standing right with spear and globus cruciger (Sabatier, pl. XII, 7); 3) emperor to left, the type of our medallion (Wroth, pl. V, 2). In all cases the inscription is **GLORIA ROMANORVM**, which Babelon considers the sign of a triumphal issue. Evidently there were different occasions for the coining of special silver.

Collection of Hayford Peirce.

FROM THE WHITTEMORE COLLECTION, FOGG ART MUSEUM,
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

PHOCAS

47. Silver, 13.72 grams, 33 mm. ↓

FIGURES 47 and D

DN FOCAS PPAVG

Bust right, laureate, in cuirass and paludamentum.

No inscription

Cross potent between two palms.

Struck at Constantinople, November 23, 602–October 4, 610.

A specimen weighing 13.95 grams was published by Alfred Tauber (*Numismatische Zeitschrift*, IV [1872], pp. 31–34). Wroth, judging from the engraving, doubted its authenticity and suggested that small silver coins with the same reverse type may have come from the mint of Carthage (*op. cit.* pp. 164 f., note 2). The genuineness of the Whittemore piece, however, which can hardly be questioned by anyone examining it, is supported by a third specimen, also of 13.95 grams, now in a private collection. It was seen by Dr. Herbert Cahn in Basel, and he was convinced that it was authentic and that Wroth's doubts were unfounded. In addition, there is in Vienna a medallion otherwise similar but on a larger flan (35 mm.) with a weight of 15.98 grams (fig. D). The suggested connection with Carthage is sufficiently disposed of by the fact that Tauber's piece and the third one came from Constantinople, the fourth from Jugoslavia, while the Whittemore Collection was almost entirely assembled in the East. Tauber, in discussing the weight, comes to the conclusion that it represents two of the heavy silver pieces issued by Phocas' successor Heraclius, of a theoretical weight of about 6.82 grams. This would mean, of course, that the standard had already been devised by Phocas or some earlier emperor, but we have no such evidence, and the Vienna medallion clearly testifies against it. On the other hand, this is no normal multiple of the siliqua, and it is probable that no relation was intended.